

PUBLIC HEARING

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Westark College
Latture Conference Center
50th Street & Grand Avenue
Fort Smith, Arkansas

APPEARANCES

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1 MR. REEVES: We want to make sure everybody's
2 signed the sign-in sheet so we can have a record of who's here
3 today. So if you haven't signed in, please do so. I would
4 remind you, too, we have a court reporter here recording the
5 events, so if you ask a question or have a question, feel free
6 to ask it, but talk loudly so she can hear you. It might be
7 helpful even to identify your name for her the first time or

two

8 so she can just note who you are. That would help us too.
9 My name is Butch Reeves, and I'm the chief legal counsel
10 with the Governor's office. As you know, the Board of
11 Apportionment is made of the Governor, the Secretary of State,
12 and the Attorney General. They've met once already to kind of
13 kick off this process. We're here to have input on the front
14 end before the plan's even drawn from the people in this
15 community to find out what you like, what you don't like. For
16 instance, multi-member districts. You are a multi-member
17 district here in Fort Smith. We would like to know what you
18 think about that. Do you want to keep it? do you want to
19 it? do you want to do something different. We want to know
20 what you think about the current lines, essentially. Should
21 they be moved? how should they be moved? There will be some
22 moving of the lines because of increased population. I think
23 Tim has some numbers on what we think each -- based on the

scrap

24 projections, what each house district, how many should be in
25 that and how many should be in each senate district. Some of

3

just

1 those will have to be moved. And so we're here, generally,

2 to get your input. There are certain things that the courts

Preserving

3 have told us that we should take into consideration.

4 communities that are similar, that you have a similar interest.

5 Incumbency for current incumbents is another consideration that

6 we can take into account. The information we will have this

7 time, I think, will probably be more extensive than we've ever

it

8 had. At least in the format we will have it, which will make

9 much easier to answer questions and ask questions about each

10 plan, each county, each Senate and House district that we're

11 going to draw. So, really, that's why we're here, really, to

12 get input from you as much as to have you hear what we have to

13 say.

14 We will be back. Tim will give you the time frames, but

31st

15 we've been told, that we'll get the census numbers by March

16 next year, by the end of March. It will take some time to load

17 that data and then start drawing the plan. We hope to have the

18 whole process finished by October so that if a person wants to

19 run for the House or Senate, they know which district they have

20 to live in to run for it. If they need to move across the
21 street or across town, or whatever, we want them to know that a
22 year in advance to meet the qualifications. That's really why
23 we hope to have it done by October. We plan to be back in your
24 area. I can't say in this building or this place, but in your
25 area, sometime next summer with a proposed plan.

4

but

1 The Board will not have voted on it when we come back,
2 the plan the staff is proposing will be available on our web
3 site as soon as we can get it on there. Tim will go into some
4 of that.

feel

5 On our web site also are dates, time frames, the staff
6 people. Like I said, I'm Butch Reeves from the Governor's
7 office, and this is Tim Humphries from Sharon Priest's office,
8 Larry Crane from Mark Pryor's office, Ron Maxwell from Sharon
9 Priest's office, and Greg Kirkpatrick from the Governor's
10 office. All of our names are on that web page with our phone
11 numbers. I think our e-mail address is on there too, so if you
12 have a question, concern, something you want to say, please
13 free to log on and let us know that.

14 That's really -- as the plan gets developed, we will put
15 it on there as we get it so you can make comments actually on
16 the web page about the plan that you're seeing when it's
17 developed. And understand, until the Board votes on it, it's

18 not the official plan. It's the proposed plan. So until that
19 happens, we still want to know what your input about what you
20 think.

21 Anything else we need to cover? Tim wanted to go over
22 kind of the software and the computer and how we're actually
23 going to be doing this. Each of our offices has our own
24 software computer. We have a central office in the AGON
25 building across from the state Capitol with staffers over
there.

5

1 So if you call or e-mail, you'll actually get that office over
2 there, but we all have access to that and will be available
over
3 there when the plan starts being drawn. So I'll turn it over
to
4 Tim.

5 MR. HUMPHRIES: Folks, I'm going to give you sort
6 of a demonstration about how our computer system that we're
7 going to have set up is going to work. Maybe, also, in the
8 process give you a little bit of an idea of how we can help the
9 counties.

10 Reapportionment is not just drawing congressional
11 districts. That's the general assembly that does that. It's
12 not just drawing each house and senate districts that we do,
but
13 it's -- I'm sure there -- I know there are a lot of you here

the

drawing

14 that are aware that a lot of it is involved in the local level
15 too. Justice of the Peace districts have to be drawn, and in
16 some areas school districts have electoral zones that they have
17 to draw. So we're going to be able to offer some technical
18 assistance in that regard, too. And I'll talk a little bit
19 about that as we go through it, but before I actually get to
20 demonstration, I'll point out the state maps that we brought
21 here that show the house and the senate districts.

22 What's on the screen here gives you an idea of what our
23 computer software is about and about, you know, what we'll be
24 doing when we actually sit down at the computer after the data
25 comes in in March, probably. And when we start actually

6

1 these districts.

2 You can see here we've got -- this is a House plan for
3 this general vicinity here. And I think you can see a
4 particular problem that we may have had in this area here.
5 That's been ironed out in the last election. And I'll get into
6 a little bit later about how we're going to avoid those kind of
7 problems when we do redistrict. We had -- that mistake was a
8 huge mistake that the last Board of Apportionment made, and
9 we're not going to make that mistake again. And I can tell you
10 why our technology is going to enable us, I think, to avoid
11 those kinds of things in 2001.

12 Before I get into that, though, I want to -- Butch talked
13 about our web site a little bit. And if I could, I would like
14 to find that stuff. I want to kind of run through some of that
15 with you, because I'd really like for you-all to -- the people
16 here are interested in this process, and I think that this web
17 site gives you a lot of information about what you need to know
18 about the process itself, the legal underpinnings of this
19 process, some of the case law that's going to guide the Board,
20 and things like that. And those kind of things are here. And
21 would really like for y'all to make use of this.

22 Let me give you the web site address because it's not on
23 this page. It's [www.arkdistrict -- all one word -- arkdistrict](http://www.arkdistrict--alloneword--arkdistrict--lowercase--state.ar)
24 -- lower case -- [.state.ar](http://www.state.ar).

25 MR. CRANE: It's the other way around, isn't it?

7

1 It's www.state.ar.us/arkdistrict.

2 MR. MAXWELL: Okay. I'm sorry. Did y'all get
3 that? Let's start from scratch again.
4 www.state.ar.us/arkdistrict.

5 MR. CRANE: Forward slash.

6 MR. MAXWELL: [/arkdistrict](http://arkdistrict). Sorry about that.

7 But this opening page, I'll just run through some of them that
8 you might find interesting. This is a page that just tells you
9 about the Board, the various board members. It's got

10 information about the Board, contact information.

11 One person that you might want to contact, the
12 reapportionment coordinator, the person who set up in what I
13 call our central office over in the AGON building in Little
Rock
14 is Ron Sheffield. And his number's on the page. We got a page
15 that it's got a list of our public hearings that we're going to
16 have. That's not working.

17 Anyway, we've got -- there's also information -- one of
18 the things that I wanted to show you was our resources and
links
19 page, and one of the resources that we have listed there and
20 that you can link to is the United States Census Bureau. And
21 what they've got now at the Census Bureau is estimates by
22 county. You can go there and get -- as of July 1st, 1999, you
23 can get what the Census Bureau estimates the total population
of
24 each county in Arkansas is. And another table they have is one
25 that shows the population as of the 1990 census and compares it

8

1 to the 1999 estimates. And by looking at that, you can get an
2 idea of how your county has grown for the most part.
Obviously,
3 the counties up in this part of the state have grown.

4 As a result of the growth in the State of Arkansas, which
5 the Census Bureau estimates is about eight percent overall, the

of

'91

In

district

6 average size of the House and Senate districts is, obviously,
7 going to increase in this period. We have a hundred House
8 districts, 35 Senate districts. When you're dividing a hundred
9 into the total population and 35 into the total population, and
10 that total population gets bigger, it's obvious that the size
11 each district is also going to have to increase. Again, the
12 redistricting, the average size was about 23,000, in the -- in
13 this redistrict in the House and about 67,000 in the Senate.
14 the 2001 redistricting, the average size of a House district is
15 going to be about 25,000. So it will grow about 2,000 per
16 district. And the average size of the Senate district is going
17 to be about 72,000, based on the estimated totals as of 1999.
18 So you can see that each district is going to have to get
19 bigger in terms of population. And in areas where population
20 has increased at a faster rate than the overall population of
21 the state, which, obviously, includes a lot of Northwest
22 Arkansas, then that means the geographical areas of the
23 will get smaller. Even though you'll have to have more people
24 in each district, you've grown at a faster rate than the state
25 has as a whole, so the geographic size in many cases will be

1 smaller.

2 In other parts of the state there are some counties that

3 have lost population. Some at the rate of anywhere from seven
4 to ten percent. Obviously, the geographic size of those
5 districts is going to have to get much larger because you're
6 looking to find more people to put in those districts. And
7 that's in areas where people have moved out of.

8 That just, I guess, sort of gives you a brief
9 demonstration, I hope, of how this computer software works.

do 10 And, like I say, one of the things that we're going to try to

areas 11 is to make our computer equipment available in a number of

12 of the state so that after we're through with the legislative
13 redistricting process, and maybe even while we're doing it, you
14 know, we may can get into it even during that earlier period,
15 but for sure, I think late in the summer, early in the fall,
16 we're going to have equipment available so that counties can
17 come down and draw their JP districts, if they'd like.

18 We're hoping to have that capability at the University of
19 Arkansas of Fayetteville at the Center for Advanced Special
20 Technology up there. They have been very helpful to the Board
21 of Apportionment in acquiring this software, and it's going to
22 help us in using it and getting a final product in its hard

copy

23 map out of it. And also at UALR at the State Data Center and

GIS

24 also at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. There's a

25 program down there. And we'll also have some availability in

the 1 our office. We're hoping to have four different locations in
2 state that counties can come in, and we can provide them some
3 assistance with the technology and helping those counties with
4 that technology to take advantage of this and, perhaps, draw
5 their JP districts, if they would like.

6 In furtherance of that project, we're right now in the
7 process of putting all of the JP districts -- those have to be
8 reported to the Secretary of State's office. We're putting
9 all in this computer program. And so each -- we're going to
10 have, hopefully, all 75 counties' JP districts in this computer
11 program. When the census data comes out in March, we will send
12 each county a map with numbers showing the current population
13 each JP district that will show you how the population has
14 changed within your counties and give you some idea about how
15 you might want to draw JP districts.

16 But back to the legislative redistricting process, what
17 I've got here is a map showing the precincts that the census
18 bureau has in their TIGER file from the 1990 census. So this
19 the precincts as they were in 1990. The Board of Apportionment
20 back in 1990, of course, didn't use the precinct as its basic
21 building block; it used the township as its basic building
22 block. And that's not going to happen this time. This time
23 the basic building block of this redistricting is going to be at
24 the precinct level. So whatever those precincts look like now as

25 reported by the counties to the State Data Center and from the

11

1 State Data Center to the Census Bureau, is going to be the
2 precincts that we're going to be working with in drawing these
3 district lines.

going

4 And just to give you just a brief demonstration about how
5 this will work, let's assume that we're here in 2001 drawing
6 these districts, and we see that District 15 is one that's

and

7 to have to pick up some population from somewhere, we decide to
8 come up here in District 11 and take this precinct out of it
9 put it in District 15. Just a couple of clicks of the mouse,
10 and all of the sudden that precinct has been moved out of
11 District 11 into District 15. I cannot move my thing over or I
12 would show you the population of District 11 has changed. It's
13 decreased by the number of people that are in that district,
14 which I could show by hitting this button. Pops it up and
15 shows that that is a precinct -- precinct known as Kimbo
16 Precinct, near and dear to the folks in Crawford County, I
17 suspect. And it has a total -- it had in 1990 a total
18 population of 1,642, and then it gives racial breakdowns and
19 voting age breakdowns for that precinct. Pretty much
20 instantaneous information.

21 A far cry from what I'm sure a lot of y'all do or have

22 done -- if any of ya'll have been involved in drawing your JP
23 districts. I know the process is it's just a matter of
24 spreading out those census maps, and for each county you're
25 going to get 15 or 20 census maps. Spreading those things out

12

1 and getting the numbers on one side and getting the calculator
2 and doing all that. That's quite a chore. This really
3 simplifies the process quite a bit. Anybody got any questions?

4 MR. TOMMY JOHNSON: Is this just going to be able
5 to be done at Fayetteville or UALR? Or with the maps that you
6 can pick up on your web site, could that be done with those?

capable
7 MR. HUMPHRIES: Yes. It's not going to be
8 of being done over the Internet. On the web site. You're not
9 going to be able to do this. I don't understand how these --
10 how computers work, but I do know that an individual user would
11 have to have this kind of software in order to do this.

12 Now, there are various makers of this software out there.
13 We use something called Autobound put out by a company known as
14 Esri, which also produces a product known as Artview. This
15 Autobound sits on an Artview platform, if that means anything
to
16 anybody. It doesn't mean very much to me. But Artview is a
17 well-known and widely-used geographic information systems
18 software. And this Autobound program sort of attaches to that
19 and allows you to do these redistricting tasks much easier. So

20 our cost has been roughly per license for these, I think about
21 \$2,000 for Artview, and about \$3,000 roughly for Autobound.

22 Using a -- you know, pretty much -- we're using a -- our
23 -- the computers that we're going to be working on are pretty
24 much state of the art now, I guess you would say, which is not
25 -- I mean, back in '91 we spent a hundred grand for hardware

and

13

1 software that didn't work right, spending not near that much
2 this time. I said it didn't work; it didn't work near as well
3 as this does. Especially with the end product. But anybody
4 who's got Artview can look at this, and I think the cost is not
5 such that if you have other applications for it, you know,
6 besides just JP districts or whatever you're doing, it might be
7 something that you would consider investing in. And I think if
8 you get some help, I hate to do much volunteering for CAST, but
9 I know that they're looking to spread the joy of GIS up there.
10 And I think the folks at CAST -- I talked to Brian Culpepper up
11 there -- can probably help you with that.

12 Anybody else got anything? Or did I answer your
question?

13 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

14 MR. HUMPHRIES: Anybody else got anything?
Again,

15 one of the things that we're here for is to hear from you-all
16 about these districts. I mean, that's the main purpose that

17
districting

we're here is to hear from the local areas about the
process. And what I've tried to do is sort of explain how the
process is going to work and give you some ideas of how the
numbers are going to evolve.

But, you know, if ya'll have any ideas from us, we would
like to hear them now. Or another feature on our web site is a
page where you can e-mail comments to us. And so I would
encourage you to go to that. And you can look at the comments
that have already been sent to us, and there have been four or

14

from

So

five, from different -- these have been from the Delta. But
we've had four or five comments. And we would like to hear
folks in this area and everywhere we go about what you want.

there are numerous ways to contact us. Again, we would like to
hear from you now or over the web site or by telephone, mail.
All that information as far as addresses and phone numbers are
on the web site.

Yes, sir.

MR. LARRY COCHRAN: I have a question about how
the Reapportionment Board comes to a consensus or a decision on
redrawing a district. I suspect in most cases you have kind of
a consensus, but what if the reapportionment board disagrees?
Will it come down to just strictly a straight vote?

14 MR. HUMPHRIES: It's pretty much a straight vote.

went 15 Now, to give you a little bit of idea about how the process
16 last time back in '91, we had a series of hearings like this,
17 then the staff holed up in the AGON building and came up with a
18 proposed plan. Then we went out and had another series of
and 19 meetings around the state and took that proposed plan around
20 asked folks what they thought about that. Then the Board had a
21 series of meetings late in the year, and there was a lot of
22 discussion. People came to Little Rock from various parts of
23 the state with various ideas about how they wanted those
24 districts to look. And the Board met three times, I believe,
25 late in the year before they actually adopted a plan. And I

15

1 expect it will go something like this. Yes, sir.

and 2 MR. BUDDY BLAIR: For identification, I'm Buddy
3 Blair and a former -- I'm retired now. I'm a form educator,
4 I was in the Arkansas House of Representatives 1981 to 1995.
5 And we've gone -- I went through this twice when I was in the
6 legislature, and -- in fact, when I was elected and went in in
7 '81 is when that process started the first time. Now I'm going
8 to address just Fort Smith. Okay? Because that was my --
currently 9 obviously, that's where I represented. We have -- and

10 we have a multi-member district here in Fort Smith.

11 As you know, in 1981 the boundaries were roughly -- it
12 went -- now this is the first time. Okay? I'm going to give
13 you a little history. The boundary roughly went in Fort Smith
14 to Van Buren, to 74th Street, down to Zero Street. Isn't that
15 correct, Tom? And we had three representatives in that
16 district. Okay? Then when -- of course, we had a population
17 increase. So, basically, what they did -- we had a problem all
18 along in that district, and I'll tell you what it was, and it
19 was no big deal -- well, it was a big deal, too, I guess. I
20 didn't, but two of our representatives, one a Republican and

one

21 a Democrat, and both fine representatives -- okay -- lived next
22 door to each with a house separating them. So there was no --
23 mean, they were -- we were going to get into a situation where
24 they were going to have to run again, so I can't split a house
25 in half, and they lived on the same side of the street. So,

I

16

1 basically, what I'm saying is, that if we continue with the
2 multi-member district we're going to redistrict again, and we
3 took in -- well, I think clear to Barling, and then we went
4 Fianna Hills and there was some confusion there, I know, on --
5 as you well know.

into

6 The point I'm leading up to is, is by giving you this

7 history, we no longer have that situation of two
representatives
8 who live so close to each other. And speaking for myself
9 personally, I would like to see Fort Smith in single member
10 districts for a couple of reasons. Number one is, we really
11 don't have any representation that I know of on the north side
12 of town of Fort Smith, through no fault of anybody's. This is
13 not pointing the finger at any of our fine representatives and
14 state senators we have now. I'm just saying that's just the
way
15 -- well, let's talk about representatives, not state senate,
16 because I think he has moved. I never can figure out where he
17 is, but he's over -- anyway, the bottom line thing is, as far
as
18 the representatives are concerned, I think that for whatever
19 it's worth, and put my two bits in, if we should show a
20 population that I think we're going to show, I would like to
21 see -- put my plug in for a single member district.
22 MR. HUMPHRIES: I've broken this down to the
block
23 level. That's kind of another thing you can do here. Gives
you
24 an idea about the patterns. Yes.
25 MR. JAKE FILES: I am Jake Files. I am the

17

I
1 current representative who had the confusion and had to move.
2 have moved, Mr. Blair, over, and I live in Sutton Estates now,

3 so there is representation on the north side. And I see that
4 side of it also. I also see some benefits on the multi-member
5 side as well.

6 The issues that I see could possibly come up are turf
7 battles. And Miss Carson and I have not ever had a problem
8 working together. I say that; not that I know of. And work
9 together well, although being on different sides of the
10 political aisle. But I can see some things arising as well.

As

11 I say, I represent the area Westark was in; she represents
12 another area and Dean represents yet another one. When it

comes

13 time to fund something at Westark, and the other two has not
14 gotten things that they're interested in, not that they're

going

15 to block an appropriation bill that's going to help the entire
16 community, but it's not going to help their people, and it's
17 going to be hard to go back in some cases when they say, "Well,
18 why didn't you do something for our area? We were the ones

that

19 elected you." And justify why you're helping out in another
20 area. But it's a benefit to all communities it serves. And so
21 not that that would ever come up, and I certainly hope that it
22 wouldn't, but I see things like that have a possibility of
23 creeping in when you start splitting things up across the
24 street.

of

25 MR. JOHNSON: Tim, Tommy Johnson. I'm chairman

1 the Democratic party locally here, and I support the single
2 member district, and I think the Democrat Party here also does.
3 One basic reason, and that is the Supreme Court decision -- the
4 Federal Supreme Court decision, one man, one vote, and it's
5 hard -- I'm sure Patti gets upset that I have three
6 representatives representing me, and she only has one. That's
7 just basically fairness there. And as far as these turf
8 battles, I cannot see where a turf battle would come, even with
9 Crawford County, on something for Westark.

10 I think one thing, too, we need -- we need to know -- you
11 know, it depends on where you start making the boundaries.
12 Whether you start them the eastern side of the state, the
13 southern side, or what corner. It's where you're going to
14 is how it's going to be divided. That needs
15 to -- we need to know something about that, I think.

16 MR. HUMPHRIES: That's -- you know, that's not
17 something that we can tell you right now, and there's really no
18 way to know that. Those are decisions that are going to have
19 be made when we start doing it. I mean, that's -- I don't
20 that's something we can tell you in November what we're going
21 be doing in April about that kind of thing. So -- but you're
22 right. I mean, everybody wants us to start in their area, and,
23 you know, because it does make a big difference as to how
24 get drawn in one area as it's sort of a domino effect. I mean,

start

to

think

to

things

25 everything affects --

19

1 MR. JOHNSON: How do you determine where you're
2 going to start?

3 MR. HUMPHRIES: Well, in '91 it was easy because
4 we were under a court order in '91 to draw districts a certain
5 way in the Delta, so you had to start there. And the Delta and
6 South Arkansas and Central Arkansas. And we're no longer under
7 that court order, so that's a decision that the Board is going
8 to have to make with input from folks like you-all. I mean,
9 that's what the web site is for, that's what the telephone is
10 for, that's what the mail is for, is to give us your ideas

about

11 where we should start and why we should start there. And so --

12 MS. PATTI HILL: Tim, I have a question, and I
13 realize this doesn't have anything to do with the
14 reapportionment. It's down on county clerks and the voter
15 registration rolls. How or will this interface with the
16 statewide voter system so that we don't have to drive street by
17 street to identify these people?

18 MR. HUMPHRIES: We're trying to figure out a way
19 to make that work. I mean, this is good technology, and I
20 it can be married. But I think we're going to have to get this
21 process done first before we can figure that out. So I don't

think

22 know that we would be able -- I couldn't have an answer of --
23 to that for you today.

24 MS. HILL: But you-all have taken that into
25 consideration on down the road.

20

1 MR. HUMPHRIES: Absolutely.

2 MS. HILLS: And I guess my real concern is
because
3 of the growth in Crawford County, there's a strong possibility
4 that we will go from 11 JP districts to 13, which is going to
5 create a lot of voter registration records to be changed.

6 MR. HUMPHRIES: Right. One thing you can see in
of
7 this -- I think if I can zoom in on it closer here. One area
8 town. I think the street names will pop up. Maybe not. Yeah,
9 there they are. Well, I can't get it close enough, but y'all
10 can't read the street names from there, but we'll be able to
11 produce maps where you can. I think we'll be able to use this
12 technology to help in that regard, and, you know, to marry
those
13 two things. And I -- we're looking at that, but, again, it's
14 not something that we're going to be able to know about until
we
15 get --

16 MS. HILL: Still in the infant stages.

17 MR. HUMPHRIES: Pardon me?

18 MS. HILL: It's in the infancy stages.

is. 19 MR. HUMPHRIES: Yeah, it really is. It really
20 I'm just learning it myself, and ya'll can probably tell.
21 MS. JO CARSON: Jo Carson. I have a question.
Do 22 we have any preliminary on the census on the population of Fort
23 Smith?
24 MR. HUMPHRIES: Actually, I think if you'll go to
25 that census web site, there are some SMSA, Statistical

21

1 Metropolitan Areas and Statistical Areas. I think there are
2 some estimates for the Fort Smith metropolitan statistical area
3 on there, but not Fort Smith itself, and certainly not at the
4 block level that we're looking at here. But, yeah, I think
5 there's some general sort of gross numbers on this.
6 MS. CARSON: Do you-all anticipate that we might
7 pick up another member?
8 MR. HUMPHRIES: In Sebastian County or in Fort
9 Smith?
10 MS. CARSON: In the Fort Smith area.
11 MR. HUMPHRIES: I've looked at it. Again, I
think 12 in terms of that 25,000 per seat, which would -- and if -- is
13 Fort Smith going to be larger than 75,000 folks? I'm not sure.
14 MS. HILL: On that note, Crawford County will

have

15 exceed, I'm assuming, 50,000. Is there a possibility we'll
16 our own two representatives from Crawford County? I mean, we
17 now go into Franklin County and into Washington County.

18 MR. HUMPHRIES: You know, that's just --

19 MS. HILL: I mean, that's just a --

those

20 MR. HUMPHRIES: Right. Again, that's one of
21 things that it's impossible to say one way or the other until
22 you see where the people lie and you actually get into doing

it.

23 I's just impossible to say sitting here in November.

24 MS. DIANE WILSON: I'm sorry I'm late, so I might
25 be asking questions that have been answered. Franklin County

22

is

1 has three districts, and if you look at it, you can see we do
2 not have the high populated city that represents -- Van Buren
3 one, Greenwood, and then like Harrison. So I'm concerned
4 because we have three districts, and as I understand the census
5 is going to determine -- or have a lot to do with the
6 determination, but what -- if we don't have a major city, how
7 does that work? How is that going to affect our county?

8 MR. HUMPHRIES: And anybody -- any of the other
9 folks here from any of the offices can jump in any time they
10 want, but I can tell you the way it worked last time. I mean,
11 what we attempted to do was to keep small cities intact within

a 12 their own districts, obviously. And so what you have there is
13 situation where you have a group of small cities, perhaps, in a
14 district, and that's strictly going to be true in the senate
15 districts because there are so few of them and makes them so
16 large, population-wise and geography-wise. But, for the most
17 part, cities are kept intact within the districts, and a lot of
18 times, I mean we try to work it -- we would try to work it so
19 that you have a small city, four or five, six, ten thousand,
20 something like that, and its surrounding rural area, you know,
21 has -- a small city might be a high level district, so to

peak.

22 MS. WILSON: Let me get more specific. I'm from
23 Ozark. Altus is five miles and Altus has grown, but they're
24 represented by two different districts, and they're on the
north
25 side of the river, which means it would be great if that was in

23

1 one district, the entire north side, and then the south was
2 represented by another district. And I'm just wondering if our
3 population will have an effect for that to happen, you know.

4 MR. HUMPHRIES: Probably not. I mean, you know,
5 there's probably not -- I am fairly familiar with Ozark and
6 Altus both, and, you know, there's no way to know at this point
7 how it's going to fall out at this time. But I don't think --

I

8 know Ozark, I'm pretty sure it hasn't grown enough, I wouldn't
9 think to -- it's just -- like I said it's impossible to divide
10 that from what we know right now. But, I mean, is your point
11 that you would like to see Ozark and Altus kept together within
12 a district?

of

13 MS. WILSON: I would like to see two instead
14 three, and that just seems logical.

15 MR. HUMPHRIES: Two districts in Franklin County.

16 MS. WILSON: Uh-huh, Franklin County.

17 MR. HUMPHRIES: Instead of three?

18 MS. WILSON: Right.

19 MS. HILL: How does the reapportion affect the
20 judicial districts? Or does it?

result

21 MR. HUMPHRIES: It doesn't. Especially in this
22 area. I mean, there may be some tangential effects through
23 judicial districts in the Delta and Central Arkansas as a
24 of a consent decree, but those are subdistricts. It really
25 doesn't have any effect on this area.

24

1 Did I see a question over here?

2 MR. COCHRAN: Yeah, I'm Larry Cochran. I live
3 here in Fort Smith, and I would like to speak for the single
4 member district. I think the single member district is much
5 more democratic. In the lectures from Dr. Stephens, a

6 University of Arkansas professor from years ago, he contended
7 that multi-member districts are less democratic. I think if
you
8 look at just strictly the mathematical numbers, it's a lot
9 easier for, say, a state rep to represent the constituents of
10 25,000 instead of 75,000. Wouldn't you say that, Mr. Blair?

11 MR. BLAIR: Exactly.

12 MR. COCHRAN: It's a lot more democratic.
13 Secondly, when you have a multi-member district like this, it
14 dilutes the voting power of minorities. It simply --
minorities
15 are just simply -- are overwhelmed by it 75,000 instead of
16 25,000 in getting that -- a minority candidate elected.
17 Thirdly, when you have a multi-member district, when you get
18 into a boundary problem like we've had of finding exactly where
19 the boundary is, you've got problems with three state
20 representatives instead of one. So it's magnified.

21 Another issue I would like to bring to your attention is
22 that there's a lot of buck passing with multi-member districts.
23 I know in the case in the past, that if you had a problem -- a
24 constituent had a problem -- sometimes it was very, very
25 difficult to get ahold of one representative. And when you get

25

1 hold of another, they say "Well let so and so handle it."
2 They're just passing the buck back and forth. I can't see turf

3 wars breaking out here. Generally, our representatives work
4 together for the good of Fort Smith and things like that. I
5 just think that's not an issue.

6 And, fourthly, I think there's a constitutional question
7 of a multi-member district. From talking to attorneys, I think
8 you may have litigation from various constituents in Fort Smith
9 if we go with a multi-member district. Thank you.

10 MR. HUMPHRIES: Anybody else?

11 MR. REEVES: I did want to say one thing just to
12 let you know. We have to start with the '91 lines. We can't
13 erase those and start from scratch. So we will start with

those

14 and move those. I want to make clear that we're not starting
15 from scratch all over because incumbency is one thing with core
16 groups of interest and all those kind of things. But we will
17 start with those lines and redraw those as opposed to starting
18 anew. I just think that would be a nightmare, mind boggling.
19 Other than that, I think we've gotten ya'll's input and

concerns

20 and questions.

21 I really just think with the software we'll be able to do
22 a better job and answer questions. We'll be able to see
23 instantly what we've done when we click a bar as opposed to
24 having to go and add all this stuff. It will instantly tell us
25 what we've done to a district or not done. And did we

1 accomplish what we set out to accomplish.

2 Other than that, I don't have anything.

3 (Wherein the hearing was adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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I, CYNTHIA A. DONALD, a Certified Court

and Notary Public in and for the County of Washington, State of
Arkansas, do hereby certify:

That the within hearing was reported at the time and
therein stated by me and thereafter transcribed.

I further certify that I am not interested in the outcome
of said action, nor connected with nor related to any of the
parties in said action or their respective counsel.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
affixed my seal of office this 24th day of November, 2000.

NOTARY PUBLIC
In and for the County of Washington
State of Arkansas

My Commission Expires:

November 5, 2009

